

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 04994 191019Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 191000Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5338

S E C R E T JIDDA 4994

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY AND ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI BRIGADES IN SYRIA AND JORDAN

1. FAHD HAS JUST SENT US MESSAGE TO EFFECT THAT TWO SAUDI BRIGADES ARE BEING WITHDRAWN FROM SYRIAN AND JORDAN IS RESULT OF HIS PERSONAL DECISION. IMPORTANT FACTOR IN HIS THINKING, WE WERE TOLD, IS FACT THAT CERTAIN ELEMENTS IN UNITED STATES ARE CLAIMING THAT THOSE SAUDI UNITS ARE PART OF ARAB CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL WHICH WAS NOT SAG INTENTION IN STATIONING THEM IN THOSE TWO COUNTRIES. FAHD ALSO MADE POINT THAT OVERALL PURPOSE OF SUCH ELEMENTS IN U.S. IS TO PROVE THAT ALL MILITARY EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED BY SAUDI ARABIA COUNTS IN ISRAELI-ARAB EQUATION.

2. OUR OWN VIEW OF THE WITHDRAWAL IS THAT SAUDI GOVT IS NOT HAPPY WITH LOCATION OF UNITS IN SYRIA AND JORDAN AT THIS TIME, FOR BOTH MILITARY AND POLITICAL REASONS. ALSO, IF FAHD THINKS MAJOR TROUBLE LIES AHEAD, MEANING ANOTHER CONFLICT, HIS TENDENCY WOULD BE TO KEEP SAUDI TROOPS AT A DISTANCE.

3. IT WILL PROBABLY BE OF INTEREST TO YOU, IN GAUGING PACIFIC INTENTIONS OF SAG, TO KNOW THAT CHARTERED AIRPLANE WHICH ARRIVED HERE COUPLE OF NIGHTS AGO CARRIED NO OTHER CARGO THAN TEN THOUSAND BASKETBALLS.

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4. DEPT PLEASE INFORM SECDEF ON CLOSE-HOLD BASIS.

PORTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA04994
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760277-0007
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760745/aaaabnje.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <21 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI BRIGADES IN SYRIA AND JORDAN
TAGS: PFOR, SA, SY, JO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006